

FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

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"One Team, Supporting Military Missions and Family Readiness!"

Home in time for holidays

Fort Sam welcomes home 201st Military Intelligence Battalion

Story and photo by Gregory Rippas
470th Military Intelligence Brigade

A ceremony here characterized with relatively few words but many cheers, welcomed Soldiers from the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion returning home from Iraq the morning of Dec. 9.

The 201st MI Bn., a subordinate unit of the 470th MI Brigade, had deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for 15 months.

Earlier in the day, Soldiers arrived to San Antonio aboard a chartered aircraft to Kelly Field at Lackland Air Force Base.

They were first greeted by Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw, commander, Fort Sam Houston and Army Medical Department Center and School; Lt. Col. Michael Pappas, deputy commander, 470th MI Bde.; Command

See HOME P14



Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw (center), commanding general Fort Sam Houston and Army Medical Department Center and School; Command Sgt. Maj. Howard Riles, AMEDDC&S; Lt. Col. Michael Pappas, deputy commander, 470th MI Brigade; and Command Sgt. Maj. George Range III, 470th MI Bde. welcomes Soldiers of the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion as they get off the charter aircraft Dec. 9 on Kelly Field. The battalion returned to San Antonio after a 15-month deployment to Iraq.

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Hospital robot helps to save lives off battlefield

By Fred Baker III
American Forces Press Service

Once confined solely to the pages of science fiction, remotely controlled robots are now commonplace on today's battlefield, extending the reach of bomb experts and being used extensively to search for and destroy booby traps intent on killing U.S. troops.

Remotely piloted aircraft also

have proven their worth in combat, and now are in high demand, allowing the U.S. military to project its firepower and reconnaissance capabilities beyond its troops' reach.

And behind the scenes in a handful of military hospitals, the use of remotely controlled robots is being explored as a means of projecting doctors' expertise beyond the walls of their own medical facilities and

into places where troops need their specialty care.

"It takes a little bit of an imagination. It's hard for some people to grasp everything that you can do with this thing," said Dr. Kevin Chung, the medical director for the burn intensive care unit at the Army's burn center at Brooke Army Medical Center. "The potential is limitless."

Chung is one of the military's pioneers in robotic telepres-

ence, and he regularly pilots a robot around the halls of the intensive care unit at BAMC. His RP-7 robot, made by InTouch Health, a robotics technology company based in Santa Barbara, Calif., is a wireless, mobile, robot that allows Chung to be in many places at once.

A laptop computer connected

See ROBOT P4



Happy Holidays

Have a safe, happy holiday season from the News Leader staff. The next issue will be out Jan. 8.

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Holiday message from Secretary of the Army, Chief of Staff

Our Army remains committed to the safety and well being of our Soldiers, Families and Civilians. Facing significant challenges these last several years, our team has performed magnificently. However, it makes sense during the holiday season that all our leaders remain vigilant and involved to ensure our Soldiers stay alert to all the hazards and frustrations they may face during the holidays. The holiday season can be a

tough time for many. Those who engage in excessive alcohol or drug abuse, those who exhibit behaviors and other symptoms signaling depression or a sense of hopelessness are all especially vulnerable and susceptible to irrational acts, to include suicide. The key to mitigating risk is always good leadership, especially our first-line supervisors, and their ability to intervene with Soldiers exhibiting high risk behaviors.

In the New Year, we will re-double our efforts to enhance resilience across the force, and increase our physical, mental and emotional strength. We will improve access to a continuum of comprehensive care and programs that enhance life skills. We ask that you go

the extra mile in reminding all leaders about the challenges of the holiday season. Thanks for all that you do for Soldiers, Families, and Civilians.

(Source: Gen. George Casey Jr., Army Chief of Staff and Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army)

Weekly Weather Watch

	Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23
San Antonio	74° Mostly Cloudy	77° Mostly Cloudy	76° Partly Cloudy	52° Partly Cloudy	52° Partly Cloudy	67° Rain Chance
Kabul Afghanistan	48° Snow	46° Snow	42° Snow	46° Clear	50° Clear	51° Partly Cloudy
Baghdad Iraq	59° Clear	59° Clear	62° Partly Cloudy	64° Overcast	64° Rain Chance	68° Overcast

(Source: Weather Underground at www.wunderground.com)

Thought of the Week

This month is a season of religious observances – Advent and Christmas for Christians; Hannukah, Festival of Lights, for Jews; and Eid-al-adha, Feast of the Sacrific, for Muslims. The common theme for all these observances is light, God's light.

"The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them the light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2 NRSV)

(Source: Installation and Fort Sam Houston Chaplain's Office)



During this hustle and bustle holiday season time, don't forget to let us know how we are doing in our commitment to your outstanding garrison customer service. Your timely feedback is an essential element in our effort to continuously improve our performance and provide suggestions to help us serve you better. Good, bad, or indifferent, we wish to hear from you. Simply drop us a comment at:

http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=450

Thanks for visiting the Web site. Happy holidays from the Fort Sam Houston Customer Service Office.

Call the CMS Office at 221-2543 or e-mail samh.cms@conus.army.mil.

News Briefs

All-American Bowl tickets

All-American Bowl tickets can be purchased at usarmyallamericanbowl.com. No tickets are available at the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Ticket Office.

Fort Sam Houston Museum hours

The Fort Sam Houston Museum will be open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum will be closed today, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The museum is located in Building 123 on Stanley Rd. For more information, call 221-1886.

FMWR facility closure

All Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities with the exception of all childcare operations and the Brigade Gym will be close Dec. 19 at noon for its annual holiday party. The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center will close at 1 p.m. All facilities will return to regular operating hours Dec. 20. See Page 19 for a complete list of FMWR holiday closures.

CYS Central registration closure

The Child and Youth Services, central registration office will be closed Dec. 19 from noon to 5 p.m. Business hours will resume on Dec. 22 at 8 a.m. For more information, call 221-4871.

Christmas vigil at the Alamo

The San Antonio Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America will sponsor the sixth annual Christmas vigil to honor our troops, their Families and Texas fallen Dec. 20 at 7:30 a.m. in front of the Alamo, downtown San Antonio. Guests are requested to be seated by 7:15 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 7:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. To R.S.V.P., call Olga Terrazas at 602-6117 or e-mail samomgroup@hotmail.com.

BAMC Christmas Day meal

The Brooke Army Medical Center will be serving a Christmas day meal Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the BAMC cafeteria. BAMC staff will have first priority. The cost is \$5.40 for Family members of E-4 and below; and \$6.35 for all others, to include officers, enlisted and civilians. Cash only, no reservations required. Take-out service will be available in the Marketplace Express. For more information, call Duane Lacy at 916-1003.

Oral Maxillofacial Surgery clinic

Beginning Jan. 5 the Oral Maxillofacial Surgery clinic located in SAMMC-North will no longer treat any patients without a referral. All SAMMC-North military personnel will use the Budge Dental Clinic, 2981 Garden Avenue, Building 1278, on Fort Sam Houston for all general dentistry care. This includes annual readiness exams, routine care, hygiene appointments, emergency and sick-call care. Budge Dental Clinic's appointment phone number is 295-4156/4095/4678. For more information, call Capt. Mark Wessler at 295-2648.

Eagle Scout helps Santa visit Fisher Houses

Story and photos by Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

Santa made a special stop at the Fort Sam Houston Fisher Houses Dec. 14 to deliver gifts to wounded warriors and their Family members.

Prior to Santa's arrival at 2 p.m. the residents of the four Fort Sam Houston Fisher Houses were treated to a holiday concert by members of the Alamo City Community Marching Band.

Christopher Riley, Boy Scout Troop 475, wanted to do something special for the Fisher Houses on Fort Sam Houston to earn his Eagle Scout rank. Working with Fisher Houses manager, Inge Godfrey, and Soldiers Angels Organization he raised funds to establish a Christmas gift giving program for wounded warriors and their Families staying at the four Fisher Houses.

Riley set up an Angel Tree in the Fisher House living room with envelopes as decorations. One envelope was hung as a decoration for each room occupied in the Fisher Houses. Inside each envelop was a letter to Santa that residents could complete and tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas.

During his project, Riley raised funds in the community and purchased the requested gifts. He established a \$50 limit per gift and stopped by the Fisher House every day to collect the envelopes with the completed letters to Santa.

Riley also received donations of electronic games for Xbox 360, Wii, and Play Station III systems.



Juan Garcia, director of the Alamo City Community Marching Band leads his band members providing the entertainment at the Fisher House Christmas party Dec. 14. The band volunteered to provide seasonal music supporting Eagle Scout Christopher Riley's Christmas celebration for wounded warriors and their Families.



Christopher Riley (center), gets a helping hand from fellow scouts from Troop 475 while organizing a buffet of tamales, pies, cookies and candies served during the Fisher House Christmas party.



Eagle Scout Christopher Riley welcomes Santa, his helper Jill Severe, Mrs. Santa Claus and Fisher House manager Inge Godfrey to the Christmas Party. Riley is the son of retired Lt. Col. James and Jerri Riley. Santa and Mrs. Claus were played by Sal and Phyllis Pesta of the Goldwing Roadriders Association.



Residents of the four Fort Sam Houston Fisher Houses attend the Christmas party Dec. 14 organized by Eagle Scout Christopher Riley.

BAMC pharmacies holiday hours

The holiday hours of operation for the Brooke Army Medical Center pharmacies are:

Dec. 22 to 24 and Dec. 29 to 31
Main Outpatient Pharmacy (BAMC) — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Urgent Care Pharmacy — 5 to 10 p.m.
Warrior Pharmacy — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Pediatric Pharmacy — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fort Sam Houston (FSH) Community Pharmacy — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
TMC McWethy Pharmacy — 5:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Camp Bullis Pharmacy — 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

Urgent Care Pharmacy — 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Main Outpatient Pharmacy (BAMC) — closed
Warrior Pharmacy — closed
Pediatric Pharmacy — closed
Fort Sam Houston (FSH) Community Pharmacy — closed
TMC McWethy Pharmacy — closed
Camp Bullis Pharmacy — closed

Training Holiday — Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

Main Outpatient Pharmacy (BAMC) — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Fort Sam Houston (FSH) Community Pharmacy — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Urgent Care Pharmacy — 5 to 10 p.m.
Warrior Pharmacy — closed
Pediatric Pharmacy — closed
TMC McWethy Pharmacy — closed
Camp Bullis Pharmacy — closed

Dec. 27 and Jan. 3

Main Outpatient Pharmacy (BAMC) — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Urgent Care Pharmacy — 5 to 10 p.m.
Warrior Pharmacy — closed
Pediatric Pharmacy — closed
Fort Sam Houston (FSH) Community Pharmacy — closed
TMC McWethy Pharmacy — closed
Camp Bullis Pharmacy — closed

Dec. 28 and Jan. 4

Urgent Care Pharmacy — 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Main Outpatient Pharmacy (BAMC) — closed
Warrior Pharmacy — closed
Pediatric Pharmacy — closed
Fort Sam Houston (FSH) Community Pharmacy — closed
TMC McWethy Pharmacy — closed
Camp Bullis Pharmacy — closed

All Warriors in Transition must go to either the Main Outpatient Pharmacy or Urgent Care Pharmacy for prescriptions during these scheduled holiday hours.

ROBOT from PI

to a wireless signal serves as the control station for the robot, which brings to mind a souped-up, four-foot tall version of Disney's animated robot "WALL-E."

A computer screen serves as its head, with a camera that can pan, tilt and zoom. Two-way audio and video allows for interaction between doctor and patient or staff. Using the robot, Chung can interact with patients, check vital-sign monitors, examine X-rays and zoom in to read charts or examine a patient's wound. The system also can capture and share digital images and videos.

The RP-7 can move freely, guided remotely by Chung. Chung recently returned from a six-month, deployment as a critical care doctor at a combat support hospital in Baghdad. While he was there, he said, he was able to log in via satellite to the robot at BAMC and make his rounds seeing patients there. Twice, Chung was able to see and direct treatment for patients he had seen first in Baghdad to follow up on their care after they were flown to BAMC.

Doctors long have used the telephone to call in and check on patients, but that limits them to information passed to them with no way to visually assess the patient. Teleconferencing has been used as well, but it often is static and isn't mobile.

Using the robot, Chung said, he is able to see wounds for himself, read body language, watch facial expressions and examine a patient. He can talk to the patient and staff, and even meet the family.

"It doesn't beat real presence, obviously," he said. "Being there is the best thing. But let's say you can't be there. Which would you rather have? A telephone or this?"

Also, using such a robot would allow specialists from other hospitals to project their expertise even though they cannot be there physically, Chung said. This could be helpful in areas within the military where there is a shortage of medical care providers, especially those with specific skills.

The program still is in its pilot stage, but the goal is to have robots stationed at all military treatment facilities so that the experts can project their presence anywhere, Chung said.

The robots do have some limitations, Chung said. It doesn't have arms, so it can't open doors, and it is designed to stay in only one area. Also, "dead spots" in wireless connectivity can cause the robot to lose its signal momentarily. It then needs a gentle push by a staff member to move it out of



Dr. Kevin Chung, the medical director for the burn intensive care unit at the Army's burn center at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, remotely controls an RP-7 remote presence robot in the intensive care unit at the hospital. Chung has been using the robot to care for patients as part of a pilot program.



Photos by Fred W. Baker III

Dr. Kevin Chung talks to Andrew Leas, a clerk at Brooke Army Medical Center, using the mobile robot RP-7's two-way audio and video features. The use of remotely controlled robots is being explored as a means of projecting doctors' expertise beyond the walls of their own medical facilities and into places where troops need their specialty care.

the dead spot.

Chung acknowledged it also takes some time for the staff and doctors to get used to using and interacting with the robots. The patients, however, seem to like the robot, he added.

"It's not embraced by everyone," he said. "Ultimately, one of the things I see happening as technology improves and as wireless is available globally, ... [is that] connection issues that we have now are not going to exist, and it's going to be something that is embraced."

The Army's Medical Research and Materiel Command leased four robots in the pilot program. The robots cost about \$250,000 each, or lease for about \$80,000 a year, Chung said. BAMC is in the process of buying the robot Chung uses for about \$100,000, he said.

Chung said he can see eventually deploying such robots into mass casualty situations, such as a biochemical attack, allowing experts from around the world to project their skills to the site quickly and safely.

Applications could expand into teaching as well, Chung said, with auditoriums full of medical students following along as a robot and doctor make their rounds.

"If you look at this simply, it is a video teleconference on wheels," Chung said. "As the technology improves, I think this is going to become a very useful tool."

Already, though, the robot has proved its worth in Chung's eyes, as a tool that can be used to save lives. Since he has been using the robot, he said, a handful of his patients were dying, and he was able to direct their resuscitation from a different state.

Chung was at his wife's bedside after giving birth to their third child, Chung said, when he got a call from a surgeon who asked that he look at a Soldier who was dying. Chung stepped out of the room, logged remotely into the robot, and examined the patient.

"It was like I was there," he recalled. "I was able to process the information very quickly. Look at the patient. Look at the monitor. Look at the vitals." He even met the wife of the injured Soldier for the first time via the robot.

The patient lived, Chung said.

"That patient's alive. He was dying," Chung said. "The robot itself isn't going to save lives. It's just another tool you can use to help make your life more efficient and extend your capabilities as a physician."

Garrison chief of BTO wins prestigious Stalwart award

Mike Hartman, chief, Base Transformation Office, Fort Sam Houston received the Installation Management Command, West Region Stalwart award, during a banquet and awards ceremony Dec. 10 at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort in San Diego, Calif.

Hartman successfully built a well-focused Base Transformation Office team composed of temporary and permanent employees and contractors. He effectively managed, synchronized and coordinated base transformation efforts for Fort Sam Houston and efficiently and effectively responded to several unplanned transformation events. He developed and executed a consistent and coherent, installation transformation, action plan that aligned with Garrison and IMCOM strategic priorities.

The Stalwart award recognizes IMCOM employees, both Soldiers and civilians, who represent the Army's continued commitment to doing business in the best way possible.

Candidate's accomplishments considered for this award must be notably significant and must demonstrate positive contributions to the mission and goals of IMCOM.

(Source: Installation Management Command — West)



Courtesy photo

(From left) Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, commanding general, Installation Management Command; Michael Hartman, chief, Base Transformation Office, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Command Sgt. Maj. John Gaines, IMCOM. The Installation Management Command honored the Stalwart Award nominees and winners during a banquet and awards ceremony Dec. 10 at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort in San Diego, Calif. These individuals excelled in support of the Army, Soldiers and their Families from July 2007 to July 2008.

Neighborly welcome

Photo by Phil Reidinger

(From left) Florence and Richard Alcoser, Corrin Mendoza and George Salinas welcome visitors to the 12th annual Christmas on the Hill tour, Dec. 14 sponsored by the Government Hill Alliance Neighborhood Association. Government Hill is a city historic district that borders Fort Sam Houston and traces its history to the establishment of the post in 1876. The historic district includes the Bullis house built by Brig. Gen. Lapham Bullis upon his retirement at Fort Sam Houston. The Government Hill area has caught the eye of two new military families who recently purchased homes and renovated them and were featured this year on the historic homes tour.

News Leader survey online

Submit your feedback to help improve the News Leader. The survey is available online at <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/publicaffairs>. For more information, call 221-0615 or 221-1031.

NMTC holds all call at Fort Sam Houston

Story and photo by Minnie Jones
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

The Navy Medicine Training Center held its formal personnel inspection Friday morning at 6:30 a.m. at Army Community Service, Building 2797. The Navy holds formal personnel inspections periodically and during significant events. At this time, Navy personnel went through a uniform seasonal change, from summer whites to the winter blue uniforms.

The NMTC is the Navy's newest medical command and was commissioned here at Fort Sam Houston Feb. 29.

Under the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission, NMTC will support inter-service education and training as the Navy service element command for the joint-service enlisted Medical

Education Training Campus that is scheduled to open at Fort Sam Houston between 2010 and 2011.

Currently, NMTC is housed in Building 2266, on Reynolds Road and is scheduled to grow to just over 500 personnel.

The first Navy students are scheduled to begin training in the new METC facilities in May 2010; with a target date for all Navy students to begin training around Sept. 15, 2011, the BRAC deadline.

Naval commands that are scheduled to move to Fort Sam include the Naval School of Health Sciences, San Diego; NSHS Portsmouth, Va.; and the Naval Hospital Corps School from Great Lakes, Ill.

The average daily student load at METC will be about 9,000 Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen in 2011 when the integration is complete, of those 2,900 will be Sailors.



Navy Capt. Greg Craigmiles, commanding officer, Navy Medical Training Center, addresses NMTC personnel during a personnel inspection Friday at 6:30 a.m. at Army Community Service, Building 2797. The NMTC is the Navy's newest medical command and was commissioned here at Fort Sam Houston Feb. 29.

Firework-related fires, injuries can put damper on New Year's celebration

By Assistant Chief Terry Davis
Fort Sam Houston Fire and
Emergency Services

Each New Year's Eve, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks – devastating burns, other injuries, fires, and even death.

The use of fireworks on Fort Sam Houston and Bexar Country is strictly prohibited.

People should be aware that they can be fined up to \$1000 and spend 180 days in jail for the illegal use of fireworks.

The following statistics show how dangerous fireworks can be:

- In 2005, fireworks caused an estimated 1,800 total structure fires and 700 vehicle fires. These 2,500 fires resulted in an estimated 60 injuries and \$39 million in direct property damage.

- In 2006, U. S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,200 people for fireworks related injuries. 49% of the injuries were to the extremities and 46% were to the

head. 55% of the 2006 fireworks injuries were burns, while 30% were contusions and lacerations.

- The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times as high for children ages 10 to 14 as for the general population.

- On Independence Day in a typical year, more U. S. fires are reported than on any other day, fireworks account for half of those fires, more than any other cause of fire.

- Sparklers, fountains, and novelties alone accounted for 28% of the emergency room fireworks injuries in 2006.

Here are a few tips for people who decide to purchase fireworks and set them off at one of the Safe Shooting Areas:

- Only buy from reliable sellers, read and follow all the warnings and instructions.

- Do not let children under age 14 use fireworks and supervise older children.

- Use fireworks outdoors only; keep away from houses and flammable material.

- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks (duds).

- Be sure other people are a safe distance away before lighting fireworks.

- Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially glass or metal.

- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place according to their specific storing instructions.

- Never experiment or attempt to make fireworks.

- Sparklers need to be han-



dled carefully; they burn at more than 1000 degrees F. Light them one at a time at arm's length. Always wear gloves while holding a sparkler and never give one to a child under age 5.

- Educate children (of all ages) about the dangers of fireworks and teach them to practice safety at all times.

To report illegal use of fireworks on Fort Sam Houston, call 221-2222, in San Antonio, call 207-7963.

For more information about fireworks safety, call the Fire Prevention Branch at 221-5452 or 221-2727, or visit Building 131 on Stanley Road.

(Source: National Fire Protection Association)



Army Community Service Financial Readiness classes

Budget Development and Record Keeping – Jan. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Consumer Awareness – Jan. 8 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Mandatory First Term Financial Readiness (online) – Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Insurance Class – Jan. 12 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Bank Account Management – Jan. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Understanding Credit and Your Credit Report – Jan. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m.

One-on-One Budget Counseling – By appointment, call 221-1612.

Debt Management Plan – By appointment, call 221-1612.

All classes are held in Building 2797, 2010 Stanley Road, training room 1. Class space is limited. For more information and to register, call 221-1612.

(From left) retired Gen. Ralph Haynes, Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam Houston presents a check for \$1,000 to Sally Drews, director, Development of Architectural Department, University of Texas at San Antonio, Sue Ann Pemberton, advisor, to the society and a professor from the architectural department, UTSA, and Gayle Nicoll, chair, also from the department of architecture, UTSA. The students from UTSA document the historical data of old buildings located at Fort Sam Houston.



Detailed drawing

(From left) John Manguso, director, Fort Sam Houston Museum, Joan Gaither, president, Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam Houston, Sue Ann Pemberton, retired Gen. Ralph Haynes and retired Coast Guard Capt. Richard Whynot, reviews drawings of Building 2157, the magazine or ammunition building prepared by the architecture students from UTSA. The detailed drawings of the building described in minute detail the history, materials, design and size of the building. The measured drawing submitted to the national student competition called the Peterson prize, part of the Historic American Building Survey of the National Park Service, the Athenaeum of the Philadelphia and the American trust of architectures, won third place. The drawing, prepared in HABS standard is donated to HABS by the students. The original drawing is located at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. A copy was donated to the post museum. The prize is intended to increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation of historical buildings throughout the United States.



Photos by Esther Garcia

Dear Wounded Warrior ...



United Parcel Service workers (left) Jorge Guerro and Mike Garcia deliver a cartload of packages to the Army Community Service for the Warrior and Family Support Center. With the holiday season in full swing, packages, cards and letters are delivered from all over the United States specifically for wounded warriors as a way of showing support, caring and appreciation for what they do for their country.

Cards, letters flow into WFSC during holidays

Story and photo by Cheryl Harrison
Army Community Service, Marketing

Every afternoon for the past few weeks the United Parcel Service delivery truck makes a stop at Army Community Service. The man in brown gets off the truck, opens the cargo door and begins unloading a vast number of packages, some big, some small onto a dolly or pull cart.

Everybody knows at this time of year, packages are mailed and then delivered

with surprises and tokens of love from grandmas, friends, siblings, and sometimes mail-order merchandise.

Rarely if ever will the majority of folks receive a package, a card, a letter from total strangers sending words of love, appreciation, gratitude. This of course is not referring to the bills everyone receives from 'Joe Smoe' for a credit card or a utility bill, but then again these are not full of loving correspondence.

See CARDS P11

Transition Training Academy

Information technology career training for vets offered at BAMC

By Cheryl Harrison
Army Community Service Marketing

In 2006 a pilot program, the Transition Training Academy was taught at the Naval Medical Center San Diego. The course was designed to meet the special needs of Soldiers in medical hold. The 12 week program ended with 20 students completing the course.

In all, the pilot program lasted 12 weeks and consisted of 18 hours of classroom instruction and 18 to 24 hours of online instruction. By the end of 2008, over two hundred active duty military personnel will have completed the TTA program.

Brooke Army Medical Center is no stranger to the TTA. To date about 77 wounded warriors have completed the TTA courses at BAMC with the most recent graduation held in October.

The Transition Training Academy was established as a

joint effort of the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Cisco Systems, Inc, the Office of Disability Employment Policy and the Wounded Warrior Project. WWP administers the program as a part of their commitment to the service men and women that have been wounded or injured on active duty.

The purpose of the TTA is to empower today's wounded warriors with the tools needed to return to a competitive spirit in life, the working world and the American workforce.

Recent graduate Sgt. Lou Lopez of A. Company, BAMC said, "Most beneficial about the program was the networking and how to set up several computers. Overall it was very good. I had no knowledge or experience with the technical side. I learned basic information, on what a computer programmer's role is in the business world."

Another graduate from the

BAMC TTA, Staff Sgt. Emanuel Herrera from Arizona, had good things to say about the program as well. "It was very informative, and let the students have hands on experience." Soon to be medically retired, Herrera also added, "It is a very good program that was implemented to help Soldiers enhance their skills and find employment."

TTA courses are designed to be conducted in a modified classroom setting, with a flexible schedule of classes to accommodate participants' medical and duty requirements during rehabilitation in military treatment facilities.

Classes are held over a two day period every other week for twelve weeks and delivered in three one-hour segments. Each class is conducted three times during the two day period. Dividing the classes into one hour segments facilitates participant attendance regardless of physical

limitations, medical obligations or duty assignments.

TTA courses include networking, computer and software support and Small Office Home Office network design and installation. On-site, instructor-led courses are taught at levels ranging from beginner to advanced levels of experience. Interested TTA participants are also offered ongoing assistance with enrollment into certification and other Information Technology training programs. Resume preparation, job search and interview skills workshops are taught as part of the course curriculum.

For the TTA program itself, educators are also mentors. With a vast array of injuries as part of the experience of modern warfare, instructors work hard to provide the level and type of education every student needs. The TTA empowers every student with education so they can have an opportunity to make informed

worthwhile choices for their future.

TTA helps participants explore IT as a potential career field and to develop new career skills with real-world application, which may help secure future employment. Many of the graduates have gained civilian employment following separation from the service or have returned to service in an IT related Military Occupational Specialty.

Lopez added, "TTA opened my interest into the computer field. We received a lot of visibility from local business such as United Services Automobile Association and Cisco. I may remain in the area because of the program. I also received a laptop and a certificate at the ceremony."

Each participant of the TTA is awarded a laptop computer to aid in schoolwork, job search and civilian careers. The laptops became tremendous motivators, further reinforcing their future and ability to overcome obstacles the Soldiers may face as they make every effort to support themselves and their Families.

Preference for eligibility into the TTA is given to wounded and injured warriors from the Afghan and Iraq theaters. Disabled veterans of other theaters will be accommodated based on space available. Active duty staff may also participate if seats remain.

There is no direct cost to participants or the facility for the TTA classes. All TTA staff expenses are funded through a corporate and individual contribution network. Laptops are also funded for each eligible participant.

Each participant who commits to completing the six-course series of the TTA curriculum is eligible for a laptop paid for through the 'TTA Laptop Fund.' Active duty staff members are not eligible.

See TRAINING P11

CARDS from P9

Each day the Warrior and Family Support Center receives heartfelt letters letting their heroes who might be recovering from war wounds know they are cared for and "thank you," "please get well soon."

Delivery personnel can verify that it happens everyday over the busy holiday season. And, not just one letter or a few packages, but many packages are from all over the United States, from all kinds of folks arrive daily. Some are sent to Brooke Army Medical Center, some to Army Community Service and others to the WFSC.

The packages might contain books, magazines, toiletries, snacks or blankets. All donated items are given to convey comfort, concern and genuine caring.

Jutta Aviles, WFSC business manager said, "At Christmas,

there is more than the usual, either in the mail or walk-ins. And people bring in fresh baked goods to the center everyday."

According to Aviles, filled Christmas stockings were brought in specifically for Bingo night.

Of course all cards and letters are checked for security purposes and put around for all to enjoy. CDs, books and magazines are put out in the great room area for everyone to use, unless specified for a Soldier.

Gift cards are given to wounded warriors upon request by case managers and based on need.

Judith Markelz, WFSC program manager said, "The Soldiers are so appreciative. Every day is a holiday for them. They are just in awe of the support shown through the cards and letters. They know they haven't been forgotten."

TRAINING from P10

The TTA classes are held every other week on two consecutive days. Classes are three hours in length and are repeated three times over the two day period. At BAMC, the classes will begin May 5, Monday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon, and in the afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m.

Participants are expected to attend all six classes, three hours each. In addition web assignments are required to be completed between classes

with a time commitment of three to five hours over a two week period. Total time commitment for the entire 12 weeks is 36 to 50 hours.

The classes are offered at multiple times to accommodate as many participants as possible and their individual schedules regarding medical appointments or duty schedules.

Participants are allowed to repeat classes. The flexibility of the class schedule allows students to attend multiple classes or parts of classes to reinforce their learning.

Coordination with the

instructor is required though to assure available space in the class. And TTA curriculum is designed so that participants could attend part of one class and part of another.

The TTA curriculum is not a certification course but it does lay the foundation for participants to seek IT certification in specific areas of interest.

For more information, or to enroll in upcoming classes at BAMC call Jerome Studivant at 916-9368, or e-mail jerome.studivant@amedd.army.mil.

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District
Weekly Campus Activities
Dec. 22 to Jan. 2
Winter Break
School Resumes Jan. 5

Robert G. Cole
Middle and High School
Dec. 22
Girls' JV/V basketball vs. St. Mary's Hall at Cole, 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Dec. 29
Boys' varsity basketball Devine tournament, TBA
Dec. 30
Boys' varsity basketball Devine tournament, TBA
Jan. 2
Girls' JV/V basketball vs. Comfort, 5 and 6:30 p.m.
Boys' JV/ V basketball vs. Comfort at Cole, 5 and 8 p.m.
Jan. 3
ATSSB Area Concert Orange Grove

Winter holiday program showcases fifth grade talent

By Dr. Kathy Maxwell
Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School fifth grade students including exemplary music classes and exemplary drama classes performed an updated musical version of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol.

The holiday performance showcased the fifth grade students in vocal, dance, and dramatic roles.

The holiday play was introduced by Sandra Fergins, music teacher, and commenced with a dance and vocal number called, Spirit's Gonna Get You performed by the exemplary students. The students were dressed in black and white with other-worldly black capes.

Other vocal selections performed with dancers included

Count on It, Holiday Hoedown, We Got Love and On Christmas Morning.

The dancers showing greatest form in a duet, "hoe-down style" were Justin Atkinson and Jamir Billings.

Dramatic roles were played by Zoey Cadd, Matthew Schiek, Ashley Jeffords, Hannah Wafford, Jessica Washington, Dayna Howell, Brandon Adams, Galearie Edison, Cole Kirchen, Collin McNeely, Dominick Mead, Elisha Fardink and Austin Isibor holding the leading role as Scrooge.

Stage and crew jobs were performed by Jaime Gonzalez, Kaylynn Gibson, Kyri Jackson, Charlene Jordan, Mervin Janet, Kaleb Dean, Bailey Morris, Ariana Fix, Chase Miller, Josh Willoughby, and Mariah Rodgers.

Included in the lovely musical undertaking were 13 dramatic roles, 11 crewmembers, and 84 singers and dancers performing to a standing room only audience.

Parent, Melanie Dodge, commented, "I can't believe



Fifth grade students take a break during preparations for the Fort Sam Houston Elementary School Winter Program.

these kids could do this. It was so professional."

The extravaganza was the result of a team effort by Sandra Fergins, Connie Beck, Andrea Garcia, and Carolyn Absher. Support and student cueing were provided by 5th grade team members, Terri Bills, Nora Gonzalez, Brenna Howell, Kathy Maxwell, and Betsy Menck. Additional staff members providing support were Amy Cichon, Ann

Boelens, Debbie Ratliff and Melanie Morgan.

The holiday play followed the Fort Sam Houston Elementary Parent Teacher Organization meeting chaired by PTO President, Jennifer Tucker.

A special thanks goes to the parents supporting their children and to the janitorial staff for their quick response to meet the needs of stage set-up and take-down.

Elementary teacher receives ExCEL award

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School fourth grade teacher Brandon Jones is the 2008-2009 recipient of the KENS 5 ExCEL award, recognizing an outstanding educator from the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District.

At an assembly on Dec. 2, Jones was presented with the Golden Apple ExCEL Award presented by KENS 5 anchor, Deborah Knapp, and a check for \$1,000 courtesy of the San Antonio Federal Credit Union. Jones was also honored through a news segment on Eyewitness News and SACU internet coverage and posters in branch lobbies.

The ExCEL Award program recognizes and rewards an outstanding teacher from each of the 19 public school districts within the Greater San Antonio area. KENS 5 and the San Antonio Federal Credit Union have honored over 171 teachers in its 10-year celebration.

Addressing the student body, Jones stated, "You are the reason I do this everyday. We learn from each other. I look forward to working with you



Courtesy photo
Fourth grade teacher Brandon Jones speaks with Fort Sam Houston Elementary students after being named the FSHISD ExCEL Award winner by KENS 5 anchor, Deborah Knapp.

every day." Jones also thanked his parents for their encouragement and financial support of his career choice.

Jones has been a teacher for eleven years, all of those at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School. He has taught students in first, second, and now fourth grade. He has provided leadership through service as a Grade Level Facilitator and service on a variety of district and campus committees.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Exhibit C-2 Statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance – government funds Year ended Aug. 31

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	Capital Projects Funds	Other Governmental Funds	98 Total Governmental Funds
Revenues				
5700 Local and intermediate sources	\$ 262,209	\$ 54,594	\$ 1,538,707	\$ 1,855,510
5800 State program revenues	7,374,031	—	173,718	7,547,749
5900 Federal program revenues	<u>7,810,682</u>	<u>1,573,599</u>	<u>1,009,395</u>	<u>10,393,676</u>
5000 Total revenues	<u>15,446,922</u>	<u>1,628,193</u>	<u>2,721,820</u>	<u>19,796,935</u>
Expenditures				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	7,780,369	—	1,520,028	9,300,397
0012 Instructional resources and media services	247,986	—	—	247,986
0013 Curriculum development & instructional staff development	87,956	—	6,856	94,812
0021 Instructional leadership	263,747	—	198,200	461,947
0023 School leadership	856,943	—	12,569	869,512
0031 Guidance, counseling, and evaluation services	613,536	—	278,565	892,101
0033 Health services	123,026	—	49,628	172,654
4 Student (pupil) transportation	507,259	—	18,190	525,449
0035 Food services	9,607	—	569,496	579,103
0036 Cocurricular/extracurricular activities	402,658	—	—	402,658
0041 General administration	681,654	—	23,666	705,320
0051 Plant maintenance and operations	1,613,816	—	42,434	1,656,250
0052 Security and monitoring services	10,277	—	—	10,277
0053 Data processing services	853,502	—	9,724	863,226
0081 Facilities acquisition and construction	—	3,626,392	—	3,626,392
0093 Payments related to shared services arrangement	<u>669,329</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>669,329</u>
6030 Total expenditures	<u>14,721,665</u>	<u>3,626,392</u>	<u>2,729,356</u>	<u>21,077,413</u>
1100 Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>725,257</u>	<u>(1,998,199)</u>	<u>(7,536)</u>	<u>(1,280,478)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
7915 Operating transfers in	—	—	7,491	7,491
8911 Operating transfers out	<u>(7,491)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(7,491)</u>
7080 Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(7,491)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>7,491</u>	<u>—</u>
1200 Net change in fund balances	717,766	(1,998,199)	(45)	(1,280,478)
0100 Fund balances at beginning of year	<u>6,919,673</u>	<u>2,237,663</u>	<u>26,504</u>	<u>9,183,840</u>
3000 Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 7,637,439</u>	<u>\$ 239,464</u>	<u>\$ 26,459</u>	<u>\$ 7,903,362</u>

Soldiers of the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion disembark from a bus on Fort Sam Houston Dec. 9 just prior to their official welcome-home ceremony at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The battalion returned to San Antonio after a 15-month deployment to Iraq.



Lt. Col. John Strycula, 201st Military Intelligence Battalion commander, and battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Mason unfurl the unit colors during a welcome-home ceremony Dec. 9 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The uncasing of the colors symbolizes the battalions return to station after a 15-month deployment overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photos by Gregory Rippes



(Right) A little girl clings to her father during the welcome-home ceremony for the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion Dec. 9 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

(Left) A family reunites Dec. 9 in time for the holidays. The Soldier and about 130 other members of the battalion had been deployed to Iraq for the past 15 months.



HOME from P1

Sgt. Maj. George Range III, 470th MI Bde. and Command Sgt. Maj. Howard Riles, AMEDD&S and Fort Sam Houston.

Travel orders prevented Col. Cheryl Harris the 470th MI Brigade commander from being present to welcome her troops home personally.

Buses brought the Soldiers to the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center on Fort Sam Houston, where Families, friends and fellow Soldiers waited. To make the waiting a little easier, the unit's Family Readiness Group provided refreshments in decorated surroundings, and the U.S. Army Medical Command Band ensemble performed musical selections.

At last, the Soldiers filed in through an arch of yellow balloons to loud cheers from the bleachers. After the Soldiers "formed up" into companies, the battalion's com-

mand team, Lt. Col. John Strycula and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Mason, formally uncased the unit's colors, symbolizing its return to home station.

From the lectern, Czerw thanked the Soldiers for their "selfless service and personal sacrifices," and he recognized them for accomplishing their interrogation mission at Bucca and Camp Cropper in Iraq by supporting the Joint Detention and Interrogation Center there.

"Each of you played a pivotal role in the Global War on Terrorism," said the general. "Your successes have proven the benefits of sending a single, cohesive unit to support the JDIC." He added that their successes established the standard for other battalions that will continue the JDIC's mission.

Addressing the Families, Czerw praised them for helping their Soldiers during their deployment.

"Every spouse and significant other has endured the rigors of Family separation while keeping their Soldiers in their hearts and prayers," he said. "You are true heroes."

After Czerw concluded his brief

"Every spouse and significant other has endured the rigors of Family separation while keeping their Soldiers in their hearts and prayers. You are true heroes."

*Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw
Commander, Fort Sam Houston and Army Medical Department Center and School*

speech, Strycula took charge of his unit and delivered one order: "Fall out!" With those two words, the bleachers emptied as Family members scrambled to make contact with their Soldier.

Sgt. 1st Class Elvin Blen of the 201st was looking for just one person: his fiancée, Elsa. They had been apart for the entire 15 months although, he said, they stayed in regular contact by telephone.

"The hardest part was not being able to go home at the end of the day and talk to someone," said Blen. "I was keeping things all bottled up."

Among Family members, traveling long distances to welcome Soldiers home, were Evelyn and Frank Smith, from South Carolina. They were here with their granddaughter to greet her husband of about 10 years, Capt. Gualberto

Marrero, who exemplifies many Soldiers' dedication since 9/11.

"This was my first deployment with the 201st, but my third deployment to Iraq," said Marrero, a member of the battalion for the last two of his 13 years in the military. He added that he had also deployed to Afghanistan three times.

Sgt. David Reed also deployed overseas prior to joining the 201st MI Bn. three years ago. That was just after he and his wife, Katie, married. They have been apart for a sizeable percentage of their married life, but at this time, it didn't seem to matter.

"It just feels wonderful to be home," exclaimed Reed.

When asked how she felt to have her husband home, Katie Reed responded with just one word, "Awesome!"

A couple embraces at the conclusion of a welcome-home ceremony for the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion Dec. 9. The Soldier and other members of the battalion had been deployed to Iraq for the past 15 months.



Family, friends and fellow Soldiers cheer members of the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion Dec. 9 as they form up inside the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.



Holding a "I love you" balloon a woman embraces her returning Soldier Dec. 9 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. About 130 Soldiers returned from a 15 month deployment in Iraq.

Housing Update

Lincoln Military Housing is proud to announce the winners for the events held in November.

The Yappy Hour winners of the cutest dog contest were Veronica Villescás, Sgt. 1st Class George Koranyi and Maj. Michael Arnholtz. The Meow Mixer winners for the cutest cat contest were Kisha Hillhouse, and Staff Sgt. Patrick Kaer. The winners of the Yappy Hour and Meow Mixer events received gift certificates from Petsmart for \$25.

The Bill Miller Thanksgiving dinner winners were Lt. Col. Michael Walker, Sgts. 1st Class Christopher Kane and William Mudd; and Shelly Lochabay.

In December, residents registered to win a Honey Baked Ham gift certificate at their community centers. The winner was announced on Dec. 16.

Attention kids

Santa Claus will be driving

through villages Dec. 22 and he would like you all to come see him. Santa's driving schedule will be:

Watkins Terrace	10 a.m.
Harris Heights	11 a.m.
Patch/Chaffee and	
Marvin R. Wood	1 p.m.
Gorgas Circle	1 p.m.
Wheaton/Graham/	
Dickman	2:15 p.m.
Artillery Post	3 p.m.
Hancock	3:30 p.m.
Staff Post	3:45 p.m.
Infantry Post	4:15 p.m.

Parents please bring your children Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to the Fort Sam Houston Resident Center at 407 Dickman Road to meet and take a picture with Santa.

There will be a Best Tree Ornament Contest at each community center. Decorate a holiday ornament and bring it to your community

center to decorate the Christmas tree. The best-decorated ornaments will win a prize. Residents can bring their ornaments into their Community Centers now through Dec. 22. The winner will be announced and contacted on Dec. 23.

LMH is also having a holiday décor contest. Residents are encouraged to bring out the holiday spirit of the season into their yards. There will be one \$50 gift card winner for each village from Wilmar. Nominations will be accepted at your Community Center now through Dec. 22. The winner will be announced on Dec. 23.

Each month LMH chooses a yard that exceeds the standard yard maintenance. They are looking for unique yards with that special sass and pizzazz. Nominations may be submitted by phone or in person at your community center. Nominations must be received by the 24 of each month. Winners will receive a \$25 gift card from Wilmar.

Have you completed a survey card?

Each month LMH conducts a drawing for residents who complete the survey card from a move-in, move-out or service request. Survey cards must be submitted from the first through the 13 of each month to be eligible for that month's drawing.

January schedule of events

Register to win a New Years' Resolution Pack filled with goodies Jan. 1 to 16 at their community center or by e-mail. Winners will be announced by Jan. 19.

Children can bring in their creative colorings or drawings for their 2009 wishes and goals before Jan. 20 for a chance to win a prize. One entry per child, winners will be announced Jan. 21.

The monthly Mayor's Meeting will be held Jan. 29 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the main resident center, 407 Dickman Road. R.S.V.P. is required.

Each community center will hold a Crime Prevention meeting in January. Residents will be notified by



Courtesy photo

Patton, one of the winners of the Yappy Hour cutest dog contest poses for a picture. Owner, Sgt. 1st Class George Koranyi received a \$25 gift certificate from Petsmart.

e-mail and are required to R.S.V.P.

For photos and upcoming activities, residents can visit www.sam-houstonlpc.com. For any questions or additional information, call 270-7638.

(Source: Residential Communities Initiative)



November Survey of the Month

Mrs. Staci Bynum

December Yards of the Month

12 Staff Post
634 Infantry Post
102 Artillery Post
2278 Hancock
526 Wheaton
825 Patch
3243 Ingram Path
2816 Marvin R. Wood

Holiday hours for FMWR facilities

Many of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities will be closed extra days during the December holidays. Below is a list of additional closures for December. Call the facilities for any variance in normal operating hours.

RV Park

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 25 and 26 – closed
Jan. 1 and 2 – closed

Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 25 – closed
Jan. 1 – closed

Outdoor Equipment Center

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 25 – closed
Jan. 1 – closed

Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Pool

Dec. 19 – Closing at 1 p.m.
Dec. 25 – closed
Jan. 1 – closed

Brigade Gym

Dec. 24 to 31 – closed
Jan. 1 to 4 – closed

Central Gym

Dec. 24 to 31 – closed
Jan. 1 to 4 – closed

Auto Craft Shop

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 22 to 25 – closed
Jan. 1 and 2 – closed

Equestrian Center

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 25 – closed
Jan. 1 – closed

Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation Area

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 24 to 26 – closed
Dec. 31 to Jan. 2 – closed

Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Recreation Area Canyon Lake

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 25 – closed
Jan. 1 – closed

Hacienda Recreation Center

Dec. 19 to Jan. 4 – closed

Sam Houston Club

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 22 to Jan. 6 – closed, except for special events

Golf Course

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 24 and 25 – closed
Dec. 31 – closed
Jan. 1 – closed

Bowling Center

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 22 to Jan. 6 – closed, except for special events

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 21 to Jan. 1 – closed

Central Registration

Dec. 19 – closing at noon
Dec. 25 to 28 – closed



Dining and Entertainment

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

Holiday Music Celebration

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will host a holiday music celebration Dec. 20 and 21 at 2:30 p.m. This spectacular musical revue will star some of San Antonio's most talented children. Ticket cost for non-military guests is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children 12 and under. The ticket cost for guests with a valid Military I.D. is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Performances will be held at Evans Theater, 44 Garden Street, Building 2841. For more information or directions, call 222-9694.

Sam Houston Club Christmas Brunch

The Sam Houston Club will host a Christmas Brunch Dec. 21 from 10

a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$21.95 for non-members, \$18.95 for members, \$8.95 for children ages 6 to 11, children 5 and under eat free. Menus may be picked up at the club prior to the event. For reservations, call 226-1663 or 224-2721.

Recreation and Leisure

Fort Sam Houston Golf Club

Warriors Monthly Scramble

The Fort Sam Golf Club hosts a Warriors Monthly Scramble the first Friday of every month with a 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start. To participate, register at the Golf Club Pro Shop. A registration fee of \$25 will apply. For more information, call 222-9386.

Kids Travel League

Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center will host the Kids Travel League Jan. 3 from 3 to 6 p.m. The Bowling center will have limited open bowling available during this event. For more information, call 221-4740.

Child, Youth and School Services

Winter Camps for children

Middle School and Teens will hold a Winter Camp Dec. 22 to Jan. 2 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Building 1630.

Advanced registration and current MST membership is required. For more information, call 221-3502.

School Age Services will hold a Winter Camp Dec. 22 to Jan. 2 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Building 1705. Advanced registration and current SAS membership is required. For more information, call 221-4466.

Dance Party

The Middle School and Teens program will hold dance party Dec. 30 from 6 to 10 p.m. in Building 1630 to welcome in the New Year. The cost is \$1 per person. Bring a friend and get in free. For more information, call 221-3502.

SKIES program

The The School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills program offers instructional classes for children three to 18 years old, in tennis, dance, piano, martial arts, and hit and pitch baseball. For more information, call 471-9548.



Computer lab opens

A new computer lab will open Dec. 22 from noon to 8 p.m. daily at Army Community Service, Building 2797. Computer users can access the inter-

net without the use of common access cards. The room will be equipped with 24 Dell computers with access to the internet via Road Runner, and will have all the basic programs such as Microsoft Word and Excel. For more information about the computer lab, call ACS at 221-2705.

Infant massage classes

The Army Community Services New Parent Support Program will hold infant massage classes for babies from birth to one-year olds, Jan. 6 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and Jan. 22 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The program will be held in five weekly sessions. Massage benefits may include helping babies and parents sleep better and longer, decrease stress and crying, and may help relieve baby's discomfort caused by gas or colic. Infant massage helps promote bonding and attachment between babies and their caregivers. For more information or to register, call 221-0655.

FRG Leads Forum

Army Community Service Mobilization and Deployment Program will hold a Family Readiness Group Leaders Forum Jan. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ACS Building 2797. This training provides FRG leaders the opportunity to discuss unit FRG Leader issues and share lessons learned in an

See FMWR P21

FMWR from P19

open forum. Registration is needed by Jan. 5 at 4 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call 221-2705 or e-mail samh.acs.mob.deploy@conus.army.mil.

Pre-Deployment training

Army Community Service Mobilization and Deployment Program will hold a Pre-Deployment Planning training Jan. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at ACS, Building 2797. This training is designed to increase the Spouse's ability to face deployments with resilience and strength, allowing easier separations. Register by Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. For more information or to sign up call, 221-2705 or e-mail samh.acs.mob.deploy@conus.army.mil.

Post-Deployment training

Army Community Service Mobilization and Deployment Program will hold a Post Deployment Planning training Jan. 13 from 9 to 10 a.m. This training is designed to increase the Spouse's ability to face deployments with resilience and strength, allowing smoother reunions. Register by Jan. 9 at

4 p.m. For more information or to register, call 221-2705 or e-mail samh.acs.mob.deploy@conus.army.mil.

Women encouraging women

Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program will hold Women Encouraging Women lunchtime seminar Jan. 13 and 20 from 12 to 1 p.m. at Army Community Service, Building 2797. The topic will be boundaries. Learn how to set healthy boundaries, control habits, money and time and for spouse and children. Sign up today, bring a lunch, make new friends, and grow your potential. For more information or to register, call 221-0349 or 221-0600.

Understanding your child's mind

The Army Community Services will host an eight-week Family workshop by Precious Minds Parenting Initiative Jan. 13 through March 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Dodd Field Chapel. The workshop will cover different topics each week such as, parenting challenges, anger, discipline, communication, and building self-esteem. For more information or to register, call Chandra Peterson at 221-2055 or 221-0349 or Vicky Rine at 659-2539 or 913-3339.



Events

Soldier Show auditions

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is seeking talented individuals to audition by Dec. 31. Army Entertainment Division needs vocalists, dancers, musicians, technicians and specialty acts for the song-and-dance extravaganza. For more information, call 703-806-3698, 703-806-4937 or visit ArmyMWR.com and click Recreation and Leisure, Entertainment and then U.S. Army Soldier Show.

Fredericksburg Memorial, New Year walks

The Texas Volkssport Association will hold two 5K and 10K walks Dec. 31 starting at St. Joseph's Halle, 212 West San Antonio St., Fredericksburg, Texas. The first walk starts between noon and 2 p.m., finish by 5 p.m. The second walk is a guided group night walk starting at midnight, finish by 3:30 a.m. There will be a wine and cheese social from 11 p.m. to midnight. For more information on the walk, call Charles Wortz at 512-479-0741, e-mail cwortz@texas.net or visit www.walktexas.org.

Get Fit San Antonio

The 2009 Inaugural Get Fit San Antonio will host a 5K fun run and Guidon Team Challenge Jan. 3 starting at 8 a.m. at Sam's Burger, 330 East Grayson. For more information, call John Purnell at 385-8248, e-mail j.purnell@yahoo.com or register at <http://www.runawayclub.com>.

New Braunfels concert

The Voice of Elvis and Legends will hold a concert Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Brauntex Theater of Performing Arts, 290 W. San Antonio, New Braunfels, Texas. Singer Jesse Aron, an International Champion, and one of the top three Elvis Tribute Artist's in the Country and his wife, Tarie will host the event. There will be tributes to Marilyn Monroe, Roy Orbison and Ricky Nelson. For more information, call 830-627-0808.

Training

SAMC study group

The Sergeant Majors of the Army Leon Van Autreve Chapter Sergeant Audie Murphy Club will hold a study group Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1

p.m. in Building 1394, Room 215. For more information, call 221-4028.

SAEDA/OPSEC classes

The Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the U.S. Army and Operations Security (SAEDA/OPSEC) will hold a class Jan. 8 from 10 to 11 a.m. at Evans Theater. Attendees must bring their Common Access Card to sign in. For more information, call the Garrison Security Office at 221-2280, 221-1906 or 221-9500.

Meetings

Warrant Officer Association

The Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association will meet Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. at Juan Gomez's House. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard warrant officers and Family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. For more information, call Juan Gomez at 295-6596, e-mail juan.gomez@us.army.mil or Jim Gonzales at 666-9818, e-mail rgonzales879@sabx.rr.com.

NCOs' Wives Club

The Fort Sam Houston Noncommissioned Officers' Wives Club invites all spouses to join them the first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Sam Houston Club. New members are welcome. For more information, call Angie Luna at 333-0821 or 386-8265.

For Sale

Fort Freebies

Submission guidelines:

Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. Real estate and employment ads will not be published. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail news.leader@conus.army.mil or fax to 221-1198. Freebies can only be ran twice. Limit of five items per entry. For more information, call 221-0615.

For Sale: Banana waterfall water slide \$35; designer fall dresses, Ann Taylor, Anne Klein, sizes 6 to 8, \$5 each; Black authentic Coach purse, \$80; Graco playpen, \$5; girls clothes, size 3T, \$10; men's sweaters, size L to XL, \$10. Call Brenda at 364-5390.

For Sale: Wii Fit, new, never opened, \$100; Army Combat Uniform boots, size 8W, new, \$45. Call 393-5002.

For Sale: Projection TV, 50 inch, \$300; chaise lounge, light beige, new \$175; black sofa/sleeper, for child's room, \$150; dining table with six chairs, two-piece hutch, buffet, French Provincial, cream color, \$900. Call 697-9261 or 363-4056.

For Sale: Razor scooter, one seat, battery powered, pink, excellent condition, \$125. Call 464-6761.

For Sale: 1986 Chevy Silverado truck, long bed with tool box, \$1,900 obo; two garage door openers, \$150. Call 680-0241.

For Sale: Pillow back sofa sleeper and loveseat, earth tones, \$225; mauve recliner, \$40; wood grain wall unit entertainment center, 6 feet high by 5 feet wide by 17 inches deep, \$150; Authentic Burberry Nova Check small hobo tote with dusk jacket, excellent condition, 9 inches wide by 6 inches high by 2.5 inches deep with 8 inch strap, \$175. Call 852-9927.

For Sale: 1986 red Corvette, 123K, solid and clear tops, hatch back, new tires, \$7,500 obo. Call Larry at 601-3887.

For Sale: TV stand, \$15; wood end table, \$35; wood coffee table, \$35; three-drawer metal filing cabinet, \$25; office chair, black, \$20. Call 241-1291.

For Sale: 2000 Gund Peace bear in blue fleece hoodie, \$10; Therapist Select Shiatsu Plus Massage cushion, \$90. Call 648-8290.

Free to Good Home: Medium-size dog, white shepherd/lab mix about 6 months old. Call Barbara at 394-0119.

Sports

Intramural bowling league

The Fort Sam Houston Garrison Intramural Bowling League will begin Jan. 6. For more informa-

tion, call 221-3185 or e-mail earl.t.young@us.army.mil.

Raiders Futbol Club

Try-out for men's division one soccer team begins Jan. 11, college experience or better preferred. For more information, call 365-6484 or e-mail oscarlupiba@sbcglobal.net.